

The Sun

LETTERS
LETTERS

by The Baltimore Sun

June 22, 1997 Page(s): 4B
Edition: HOWARD SUN
Section: METRO
Length: 1296 words
Biographee: COLUMN, LETTER

Record Number: BSUN519662

Governor didn't swap 'quality' for diversity

The Sun does effective local government no noticeable favors by dutifully "balancing" probable false assertions of pols to oppose more verifiable ones.

Specifically, I am referring to your June 12 article that quoted the sour-braying canard that in appointing to Howard County's Circuit Court bench African-American Donna Hill Staton and Diane O. Leasure, "the governor traded quality for diversity."

The governor attempted diversity for quality. Until the "opponents" The Sun quotes cite specifics The Sun should refrain from further sustenance of this baseless rhetoric. Instead, give us some meaningful coverage about our courts and our judges' "quality."

Why, for example, does Howard have so low a conviction rate in domestic violence cases, as recently reported? Does it still have the highest uncontested divorce rate (which provides the biggest lawyers' fees for the least work) in the state? How do we compare in drunken driving convictions with similar counties?

It is worth noting that unprecedented cash was spent in this last judges' race. Why? What did the many contributing bar members expect to get in return for this unheard of opening of their wallets? Kinder and gentler judging of their better-heeled clients?

That's not an argument for eliminating election of judges. It is an argument for harder journalistic digging about our judges' actual quality, leaving the easy "explanations" about "diversity" to political hucksters.

Jack Gonzales

Columbia

Pub Date: 6/22/97

Copyright 1997 The Baltimore Sun Company